

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 097900

ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY M/CT: RPMYERS:NWH

APPROVED BY M/CT: JEKARKASHIAN

PC - FHANSEN (DRAFT)

ARA/AND - SPATTERSON (DRAFT)

ARA - FDEVINE

S/S -AOTTO

-----300245Z 073078 /70

O 300140Z APR 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 097900

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, ASEC, CASC, CO

SUBJECT: STARR KIDNAPPING: FALSE PRESS REPORTS

REF: BOGOTA 3755

1. COLOMBIA TASK FORCE (CTF) APPRECIATES EMBASSY'S REPORT-
ING AND ASSESSMENT OF RECENT SPATE OF MEDIA ITEMS FROM
BOGOTA ALLEGING INTER ALIA STARR'S "RELEASE" BY CAPTORS AND
"PAYMENT OF RANSOM BY FAMILY." HOWEVER, FACT THAT REPUTA-
BLE NEWSPAPERS AND WIRE SERVICES PICKED UP THESE REPORTS
IS A MATTER OF CONCERN PARTICULARLY GIVEN SPECIFICITY OF
ALLEGED SITE OF RELEASE, REPORTED PAYMENT OF RANSOM BY
FAMILY, ETC. THIS LEADS US, AFTER INITIAL REACTION TO AND
CONSIDERATION OF THESE REPORTS, TO HAVE SECOND THOUGHTS ON
THEIR POSSIBLE SIGNIFICANCE.

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2. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THESE REPORTS ARE FALSE AND
LIKELY TO HAVE BEEN FABRICATED OUT OF RUMOR OR ERRONEOUS
INFORMATION OBTAINED BY LOCAL MEDIA REPS. HOWEVER, CTF
IS RELUCTANT TO DISMISS THEM OUT OF HAND SINCE IT IS ALWAYS
POSSIBLE, ALBEIT UNLIKELY, THAT THE REPORTS WERE INTENDED
FOR A SPECIFIC PURPOSE, ONE WHICH IS NOT AS YET SELF-EVI-

DENT. IT IS CONCEIVABLE, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE FARC

ITSELF PLANTED THE REPORT TO COVER ITS TRACKS OVER SOME MISHAP TO STARR. THE "RELEASE," IN RESPONSE TO "PAYMENT OF RANSOM," ETC. WOULD SATISFY FARC'S PUBLIC IMAGE NEEDS AND IT COULD THEN DISCLAIM KNOWLEDGE OR RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANYTHING ELSE THAT MIGHT HAPPEN TO STARR. FARC COULD THUS SET THE STAGE FOR SEVERAL DIFFERENT SCENARIOS.

3. WITH THESE POSSIBILITIES, HOWEVER REMOTE, IN MIND, CTF WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH EMBASSY CAN DEVELOP ON THE ORIGINS OF THE EL VESPERTINO REPORT CITED REFTEL. IN ADDITION, EMBASSY SHOULD CONSIDER FEASIBILITY OF A DISCREET CHECK BY SUMMER INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTICS PERSONNEL OR OTHERS IN AREA OF ITS CAMP SITE OR OUTSIDE CHANCE THAT FARC FOR WHATEVER REASON MAY BE SIGNALING AREA WHERE STARR MIGHT BE FOUND.

CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 30-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Reason:
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TAGS: PINS, ASEC, CASC, SOPN, CO, PC, (STARR, RICHARD CHARLES)
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